

REMARKS

This is a full and timely response to the outstanding final Office Action mailed March 3, 2004. Upon entry of the amendments in this response, claims 1, 3, 7 – 15 and 28 - 29 remain pending. In particular, Applicants have added claims 28 and 29, have amended claims 1, 3, 7 - 9, 12 - 13 and 14, and have canceled claims 2, 16 – 19 and 22 - 27 without prejudice, waiver, or disclaimer. Applicants have canceled claims 2, 16 – 19 and 22 - 27 merely to reduce the number of disputed issues and to facilitate early allowance and issuance of other claims in the present application. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the subject matter of these canceled claims in a continuing application, if Applicants so choose, and do not intend to dedicate the canceled subject matter to the public. Reconsideration and allowance of the application and presently pending claims are respectfully requested.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102

The Office Action indicates that claims 1 – 3, 7, 8 and 16 - 19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by *Daughtrey*. The Office Action also indicates that claims 22 – 27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by *Hamlin*. With respect to claims 22 - 27, Applicants have canceled these claims and, therefore, the rejection as to these claims has been rendered moot. With respect to the remaining claims, Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection for at least the reasons indicated below.

In this regard, claim 1 recites:

1. A system for electrically interconnecting components, said system comprising:
a flex cable assembly having a flex cable, a first connector and a retention member, the first connector being attached to and electrically interconnected with a first end of the flex cable, the retention member extending outwardly from the flex cable;

a support structure defining ~~an~~ a first orifice and an anchor, the first orifice being sized and shaped to receive the retention member such that a portion of the retention member can be inserted into the orifice to form an interference fit, thereby mechanically supporting the flex cable assembly; and

a printed circuit board (PCB) having a second connector the second connector being sized and shaped to electrically interconnect with the first connector;

a first mount and a second mount attached to the PCB, the first mount having a second orifice and the second mount having a third orifice, the first mount and the second mount being spaced from each other and oriented such that the second orifice is aligned with the third orifice; and

a shaft having a proximal end and an externally-threaded distal end, the shaft extending through the second orifice and the third orifice, the shaft being rotatably mounted to the PCB by the first mount and the second mount, the distal end being configured to engage the anchor of the support structure such that, as the distal end of the shaft engages the anchor and the shaft is rotated, the second connector is aligned with and moved toward mating engagement with the first connector.

(Emphasis Added).

Applicants respectfully assert that *Daughtrey* is legally deficient for the purpose of anticipating claim 1. Specifically, Applicants respectfully assert that *Daughtrey* does not teach or otherwise disclose at least the features emphasized above in claim 1. Therefore, Applicants respectfully assert that the rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §102 should be removed, and that claim 1 be placed in condition for allowance. Since claims 2, 3, 7, 8 and 16 – 19 are dependent claims that incorporate all the features of claim 1, Applicants respectfully assert that these claims also are in condition for allowance.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

The Office Action indicates that claims 9 - 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Wolfe* in view *Yamaguchi*. For at least the reasons indicated below, Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

With respect to claim 9, Applicants have amended this claim such that it now depends from claim 1, the allowability of which was described above with respect to the rejection

under 35 U.S.C. 102. Since, Applicants respectfully assert that the cited art, either individually or in combination, is legally deficient for the purpose of remedying the aforementioned deficiencies of *Daughtrey*, Applicants respectfully assert that the rejection of claim 9 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) also is legally deficient. In particular, Applicants respectfully assert that neither *Wolfe* nor *Yamaguchi* teaches, discloses or reasonably suggests the combination of features recited in claim 9. Therefore, Applicants respectfully assert that claim 9 is in condition for allowance. Since claims 10 – 15 are dependent claims that incorporate all the features of claim 9, as well as the features of claim 1, Applicants respectfully assert that these claims also are in condition for allowance.

Newly Added Claims

Upon entry of the amendments in this Response, Applicants have added new claims 28 – 29. Applicants respectfully assert that these claims are in condition for allowance for at least the reasons indicated below.

Specifically, Applicants respectfully assert that claims 28 and 29 are dependent claims that incorporate all the features of claim 1, the allowability of which was described before. Therefore, Applicants respectfully assert that these claims are in condition for allowance. Additionally, these claims recite other features that patently distinguish over the cited art. By way of example, claim 28 recites:

28. The system of claim 1, wherein:
the PCB has a first outer edge and a second opposing outer edge;
the second connector is mounted adjacent to the second edge;
the second mount is located adjacent to the second connector; and
the proximal end of the shaft is located adjacent to the first outer edge
of the PCB.

Applicants respectfully assert that none of the cited art, either individually or in combination, teaches or reasonably suggests the combination of features recited in claim 28.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully assert that at least this claim is clearly in condition for allowance.

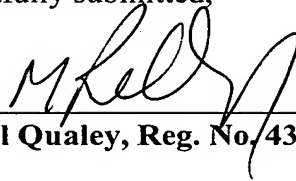
Cited Art Made of Record

The cited art made of record has been considered, but is not believed to affect the patentability of the presently pending claims.

CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing amendments and for at least the reasons set forth above, Applicant respectfully submits that all objections and/or rejections have been traversed, rendered moot, and/or accommodated, and that the now pending claims 1, 3, 7 – 15 and 28 - 29 are in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application and all pending claims are hereby courteously requested. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephonic conference would expedite the examination of this matter, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (770) 933-9500.

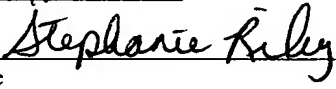
Respectfully submitted,



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Signature